11/30/84

Dave Lifton phoned a little before 6 p.m. yesterday to complain that I was talking to reporters about his book, what he later called dirty pool. (When he used this phrase I asked him about his letter to the NYTimes about WW II and he said that was different, that his letter was factual! ! !) It was avery strange call, not because he objected to my talking to reporters but because he tried not to give me an opportinity to say anything. When I got angry and shouted at him he kept on talking in the same conversational tone. I finally got him to shut up long enough for me to day that if he didn't hear what I wanted to say I'd just hang up. So he started to let me say something and I asked him to account for the back gate being locked and for the time required for the taking of pre-autopsy X-rays and pictures, at Bethesda and before he could get into it I told him not to try and pull a 10:20 because Ebersole remembered it that way. So he pulled that Ebersole line, having nothing else he could try, again wouldn't let me talk, so I just hung up.

It was a very strange thing, that continuous talking at a single level, as though he wanted to be able to quote himself again in the future. I think there is enough loudness on the tape to give him a problem, if that was among his purposes.

I'd earlier told him that the hospital's gate was locked and he disputed it and asked about the time for the taking of the X-rays and pix not being in his book. He gave no response to the X-raying time and laughed about the gate and launched into what would havebeen a monologue if I had not been shouting at him becuse of his typical mis-representations, where he has almost everything right and then has one key element knowingly and deliberately wrong.

He tried to threaten me, clearly one of the purposes, and he cited his publisher's lawyers, to tell me that I had violated the law because three reporters had told him that I had called them up and played tapes of him to them. Well, none of this was accurate so I told him to drop his usual dirty tricks. I then told him that I had not only told Kaiser (Rolling Stone) of his line in 1966 about the papier mache trees, all he said that Kaiser had told him, but also about the Brown & Root tunnels in ~~XXXXXXX~~ Dealey Plaza and his 1968 scenario, LBJ and Allen Dulles/Dean Rusk conspiring throughout Texas the week preceeding the assassination. Of course he denied it all and I told him

that I'd been warned that he taped everything and to protect myself by doing the same. He denied having said what he did say when I told him that I'd not played any tape to anyone because I could not get to them. (Of course I'll have to make an effort now. It is only that I cannot get to them because of things piled in front of them.) I also told him I was not a bit worried about his threats.

He pulled the usual line about my alleged jealously because he'd done what I couldn't do and about thinking that anything I didn't do was no good, etc., and I told him that all he has was sickness added to the work of others and that nobody in his right mind would have any interest in that. He also said that I was factually incorrect on the autopsy and what relates to it- mywriting, that is. But it was a strange thing, he knew his book was factually incorrect and never raised his voice about it and never voluntarily stopped whatever he was trying to get onto a tape about it and was extremely reluctant for me to say a word, to the point where I just kept shouting insults at him in a stream to break up what he was saying and I could not make out because of the volume of what I was doing.

Later I learned that both George Lardner and Chuck Lewis (ANC NEWS) had told Kaiser to get in touch withme. He was going to call me back after speaking to Lifton but didn't.